

## History Department Seminar

### 26 March 2014

**David Monger**  
(UC History)

### **Familiarity breeds consent? Patriotic rituals in British First World War propaganda**

This paper focuses on ritual aspects of British public propaganda during the First World War and considers whether they can be said to have encouraged emotional investment in patriotic tropes like duty and sacrifice. It explores the structural organisation of patriotic events arranged by different groups and argues that these amounted to the ritualised staging of patriotism. The first part of the paper discusses the small, everyday public events arranged by propaganda organisations. It suggests repetitive conventions served deeper purposes than routine administrative convenience. The second section explores patriotic fundraising. Kit Good suggests that civilians felt the need not only to *be* patriotic, but to be *seen* in that light through their participation in patriotic events, and this section explores the rituals surrounding the collection of money for patriotic purposes.



**DAVID MONGER** is a Senior Lecturer in Modern European History at Canterbury whose research focuses on British propaganda and patriotism in the First World War. His book, *Patriotism and Propaganda in First World War Britain: the National War Aims Committee and Civilian Morale*, was published in 2012 and appears in paperback in March 2014. He has also published articles on the patriotic content of propaganda towards soldiers and women in *Sport in History* (2010), *Cultural and Social History* (2011) and *Women's History Review* (2014).

**Wednesday 26 March at 12pm.**  
**Arts Lecture Theatre A9**